

# **FALSE ALARM REDUCTION UNIT (FARU)**

CINCINNATI POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## **FALSE ALARM APPEAL GUIDELINES**

The determination that an alarm activation is a false alarm may be appealed. All appeals must be made in writing and mailed to the False Alarm Reduction Unit within 30 days of the false alarm notification. The appeal letter must provide specific information, supported by documentation, proving the alarm activation was not a false alarm per the definition in Chapter 807 of the Cincinnati Municipal Code. A check or money order for \$25 must be included with the appeal letter. This administrative fee will be refunded if the appeal is upheld. The appeal will be investigated and a written decision will be mailed within 30 days.

## **FALSE ALARM DEFINITION**

The City of Cincinnati Alarm Registration Ordinance, Chapter 807 of the Cincinnati Municipal Code defines a false alarm as "Any alarm activation or signal that alerts a government organization which is not the result of an actual or threatened emergency requiring their immediate response. False alarms include negligently or accidentally activated alarms or signals; alarms or signals which are the result of faulty, malfunctioning, or improperly installed or maintained equipment; and signals which are purposely activated to summon police or emergency services in non-emergency situations. An alarm caused by an act of God, not inclusive of thunderstorms or lightning, shall not be considered a false alarm. Multiple occurrences due to equipment malfunction within a 24-hour period of activity constituting false alarms may be considered one false alarm for the purposes of this chapter."

## **Appeals will not be granted for false alarms that are the result of:**

1. Defective or faulty equipment supplied by the alarm company.
2. Improper installation or maintenance by the alarm company.
3. Improper monitoring by the alarm company.
4. An occurrence where no evidence of criminal activity is present.
5. Mistakes made by private contractors, maids, cleaning crews, Realtors, etc.
6. Items within the residential or non-residential location which move and cause motion detectors to activate; i.e. curtains, signs, balloons, pets, etc.
7. Doors and/or windows that become loose and cause a break in the contacts which activates the alarm
8. Caretakers who watch homes or business when owners are away
9. Glass break detectors which activate due to noises or sounds other than actual glass breakage.
10. Pets, rodents, wildlife.

We suggest you contact your alarm company immediately, should you believe a false alarm was recorded against you for faulty or defective equipment.

This list is intended as a guide to assist you in deciding whether to appeal a false alarm assessment or whether to contact your alarm company for discussion. This list is not intended to cover every situation where an appeal may be denied.